

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FOR : IOP/M; IPS, IBS, IAA

E.O. 11652 : NA

SUBJ : MEDIA REACTION

REF : WIS CIRCULAR USIA-11681

IN WEEK DOMINATED BY ECOWAS (ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES) LAGOS MEETING, MEDIA PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO U.S. AFFAIRS. SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED COMMERCIAL WIRE COPY ON PRES. FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EUROPEAN TRIP PLANS.

2. TWO MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED COMMENTARIES:

A. MAY 26: NIGERIAN OBSERVER COMMENTARY ("DIPLOMATIC STRAINS IN INDO-CHINA") BY AUSTINE OBOZUWA SAID:

"THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND, A VERY GOOD ALLY OF THE U.S. DURING THE VIETNAM WAR WERE SEVERELY STRAINED...ALMOST TO THE POINT OF DIPLOMATIC RUPTURE... FOR THE U.S. VIOLATION OF THAI SOVEREIGNTY IN THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT."

OBOZUWA SAID U.S. APOLOGY "HAS SAVED THE SITUATION FOR ANOTHER DAY," AND THAT: "THE CAMBODIAN ACTION WAS CLEARLY A

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VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 22 OF THE 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION ON THE

HIGH SEAS. THIS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE U.S. MILITARY ACTION TO RECOVER THE SHIP. THE MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL...

"THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE SMALL NATIONS AS THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT DEMONSTRATES, IS FOR THE SMALL NATIONS TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THEREBY HOLD THE POWERFUL STATES TO DO THE SAME."

OBOZUWA CONCLUDED: "THE BEST HOPE FOR THAILAND IS TO DE-AMERICANIZE HER FOREIGN POLICY, LOOK TRULY LIKE AN ASIA STATE AND PURSUE AN ACTIVIST NEUTRAL POLICY

"THERE IS NO REASON NOW WHY THE U.S. WOULD NOT WELCOME A NEUTRAL THAILAND. "THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL IS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE TO THAILAND."

B. MAY 26: TIMES INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY ("U.S.:THE REFUGEE PROBLEM")

SAID: "NO VICTORIOUS ARMY IN A CIVIL WAR IS KNOWN TO HAVE PROCEEDED TO EXECUTE THOUSANDS OF ITS OWN PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE THEY FOUGHT OR SUPPORTED THE DEFEATED SIDE,...SO IT WOULD HAVE MADE PERFECT SENSE IF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION MERELY AIRLIFTED ONLY THE TOP MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS OF THE REGIMES OF.. LON NOL AND ... THIEU.

"INDEED, RECENT REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE ALLOWING MANY PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES FROM HIDING, INCLUDING SEVERAL SOLDIERS OF VANGUISHED AMERICAN PUPPET REGIMES IN INDO-CHINA HAVE SHOWN THE LACK OF WISDOM IN PRESIDENT FORD'S DECISION TO AIRLIFT MORE THAN 100,000 REFUGEES SO AS TO SAVE THEIR SOULS FROM WANTON DESTRUCTION...

"THE REFUGEES POSE ANOTHER THREAT TO AMERICA'S SOCIAL LIFE. SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED TO BE PROSTITUTES, PIMPS AND CRIMINALS.. FOR THOSE OF THEM WHO WILL EVENTUALLY STAY IN AMERICA, THEY FACE THE PROBLEM OF GETTING JOBS AS WELL AS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS SO HIGH IN THE US. AL-
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THOUGH
OFFICIALS REPORTS SAY THERE ARE NOW SIGNS THAT MORE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS, BECAUSE OF THE POPULAR DISTASTE FOR INDO-CHINA, STILL OBJECT TO THE REFUGEES SETTLING DOWN IN THEIR MIDST."

2. MAY 29: WEST AFRICAN PILOT (INDEPENDENT, 5,000 CIRCULATION)
CARRIED QUARTER-PAGE COMMENTARY ON "U.S. AFRICAN POLICY," SAID:

"SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US AFRICAN POLICY CAN NOT BUT AROUSE
A DEEP CONCERN AMONG THESE (SIC) INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING OF FRIEND-
LY
RELATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE
UNITED STATES."

COMMENTARY MENTIONS DR. KISSINGER'S "FAILURE TO USE AMERICAN INFLUENCE

FOR GETTING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM OUT OF THE PRESENT DEADLOCK, HIS
THREAT

TO USE FORCE AGAINST SOME OIL PRODUCING ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES..
(AND THE) "INCLUSION OF OPEC MEMBERS--NIGERIA AMONG THEM--IN THE
BLACK LIST OF NATIONS DEPRIVED OF TRADE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT..."
COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF APPOINTMENT OF NATHANIEL DAVIS, HIS VISITS TO
SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES..", CLOSE TIES WITH THE CIA (WHICH) MIGHT MEAN
AN ACTIVIZATION OF CIA CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRIES
HE IS VISITING..."

ARTICLE MENTIONS AMERICAN MAGAZINE "COUNTERSPY", GIVES NAMES
OF INDIVIDUALS REPUTEDLY CONNECTED WITH CIA IN ARAB, AFRICAN
COUNTRIES AND NIGERIA, SAYS: "IT IS SURPRISING THAT WHILE TALKING
ABOUT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD NATIONS THE AMERICANS
FIND IT POSSIBLE TO EMPLOY AS DIPLOMATS..THE MEN WHO WERE COMPROMISED
AS CIA OFFICERS IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS AT HOME."

ARTICLES SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT AMBASSADOR EASUM HAS "REITERATED
HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN FRIENDSHIP AND
UNDERSTANDING.. PLEDGED THE US'SUPPORT OF NIGERIA'S ENDEAVORS IN
THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT," AND CONCLUDES THAT TIME
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WILL SHOW WHETHER THIS MEANS "A NEW, MORE FRANK AND POSITIVE APPROACH
IN THE US POLICY IN AFRICAN AND IN NIGERIA PARTICULARLY."
HEDGES

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